

Catholic Health Training Institute

Wau, South Sudan

Newsletter

August – September 2023



New Academic Year 2023-2024

On 7 August 2023, CHTI welcomed both staff and students back to the institute for the beginning of the new academic year. We have 55 new students from all the States of South Sudan and the Nuba Mountains. They come from different states, tribes, religions, languages, and cultures. After registration and orientation, we offered a Prayer of Thanksgiving. As a Catholic Institution, it is our tradition that the new academic year begins with the celebration of the Mass. We were honored to have the Most Reverend Ramijo Adam, our bishop, celebrate for us, assisted by our own Father David Dagsou, our CHTI chaplain.

In his speech, the Bishop urged the senior students to be exemplary role models to the new students. Ms. Silvan, Dean of Studies, encouraged the students to embrace each other in all of our diversity as members of the CHTI family.



CHTI Board Meeting

The quarterly board meeting was held on 23 August in CHTI. The board members include a representative of the bishop, two members from the state ministry of health and finance, Sr. Maria Teresa from the Comboni Hospital, Dr. Thomas, Sudan/South Sudan Catholic Bishop Conference (SSSCBC), Sr. Bindu, principal of the CHTI, and Fr. Jim Greene, Executive Director of *Solidarity*. The discussion focused on the steps necessary to upgrade our program to degree level, finding replacements for board members who have finished their terms, and enhancing our efforts at sustainability. Fr. Jim and Dr. Thomas, the Health Coordinator for SSSCBC participated in the weekly Mass for students. In their remarks, they emphasized not only the importance academic study but also human and Christian formation. For the new students, it was an opportunity to get to know Fr. Jim and Dr. Thomas personally.



Arrival of New Solar Power System

This month, CHTI has been blessed with the long-awaited gift of a new solar system for the whole campus. We are grateful to USAID which brought our dreams to reality. An enormous container carrying the new solar system for CHTI arrived safely 24 August 2023, after traveling a long way, sometimes over poor roads and through dangerous places. The engineers are already working to install such a necessary system.



Seminar for the First Year Students

The purpose of the seminar was to assist our new students in integrating CHTI values. In the morning, Sr. Brygida briefly presented the values that Pope Francis emphasized during his visit to South Sudan and which are important in CHTI: unity, fraternity, the respect of women, etc. Pope Francis invited us to "start from the little things". Working in groups, students identified intentional actions to implement these values in their lives and then presented them to the entire assembly. Then, Fr David introduced the Social Teaching of the Church to the students. In the afternoon Sister Elisabete Almendra of the Comboni Sisters led a Pax Christi workshop on nonviolence and peacebuilding. It included a drama that our students enjoyed a lot. The students were grateful for this rich day and expressed their desire to continue these kinds of activities.



Meeting of Health Institutions' Principals

A meeting was hosted in Juba Regency hotel on 30-31 August by the National Ministry of Health. Principals of 33 health institutions from across the country, as well as directors general of training and professional development from the states and the national level, attended this meeting to plan for the improvement of health training across the country. Dr. Gabriel Loi, national director for training and professional development spoke on the plan for the future. Dr. Janet, chairperson of the CHTI board, emphasized the importance of the quality of training. Sr. Dr. Bindu, the Principal CHTI, was also in attendance.



Guild Leadership Team Training

The CHTI guild team expressed their desire for leadership formation so that they can better fulfill their ministry. Their request was answered by Dr. Fabio Ardit, a Clinical Psychologist, who conducted a workshop with the theme "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you're a leader". He used the Action Centered Leadership Model (ACL)— Task, team, and individual—to explain that leadership is not about one's position but rather about action.

Classes and Clinical Practice

All of our students started the academic year seriously and with great commitment, responsibility, and enthusiasm: studies in the classroom, continuous assessment exams, and assignments. Second year students were sent for their clinical practice in their respective areas (hospitals and skill lab).



CTI Choir in St. Mary's Cathedral

The CHTI choir traditionally goes once a month to one of the parishes in Wau to pray with local Church and animate the Sunday liturgy together with the choir of this parish, a wonderful opportunity for our students to learn about the life and richness of the local Church in Wau, and for parishioners to know CHTI students. Our students meet the parish's choir on Saturday and they prepare songs and universal prayer together. On 17th September the choir, students and all the staff of CHTI community joined the bigger Community of St. Mary's Cathedral Wau to celebrate together the 24th Sunday in Ordinary time with the theme: "Forgiveness without limit". The Mass was a lively celebration in which our students sang beautifully, conducted by Esther Dede and Jackline Deru and accompanied by our keyboardist Benson Alafi. The occasion reflected the apostolic nature of the CHTI community and was broadcast on the Voice of Hope Catholic Radio of the Wau Diocese.

“Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults: The Catholic Church Perspective”

Solidarity organized a Safeguarding Workshop for academic and support staff and students. The workshop was facilitated by Sr. Jacinta A. Ondeng, SSND. Sister acquainted us with the message of Pope Francis: that all of us must do our part to ensure that everyone is protected from abuse of any kind. This is our contribution to the mission of Christ and the Church. Both students and staff acquired knowledge and skills on the process. Safeguarding is a collective responsibility for every one in CHTI.



Visit of Mr Joseph Ohide

Mr Joseph Ohide, the new Quality Assurance Manager (QAM) of *Solidarity with South Sudan*, paid a QAM-Monitoring Visit. We had the opportunity to get to know him, and, during our meetings to assess the implementation of *Solidarity* Human Resources (HR) policies in CHTI. Mr. Ohide emphasized the important role of line managers in creating the networking habit that will facilitate a smooth working environment by sharing working closely with one another. In doing so, we give ourselves the opportunity to have some new experiences and discover the challenges faced by our colleagues, thus helping them move ahead.



Celebrating the Season of Creation in CHTI

This Season is a time of renewal for all of us. It has given us new energy to reshape ourselves and our campus. This call for renewal has entered into the core of our being as we seek to deepen our relationship with God, with ourselves and one another, and with God's creation.

We have resolved to stay on this path by celebrating life each day, deepening our centeredness in prayer, and actively working to make CHTI become "greener" this year. The theme of the Season of Creation this year, "Let Justice and Peace Flow," has sparked new energy in our students and in how we relate to our environment.

On a beautiful morning, we began our work giving our Assembly Square a facelift. The students have assumed this charge from our grounds keepers in an effort to make the square a more appealing space. They started early in the morning weeding, cutting the grass, and grooming the flowers. They sang happy songs and told stories as a way of encouraging one another to go on working under the scorching sun.

We finished our morning with a prayer and a glass of water. We promised to continue the following Saturday by planting mango trees around the playing field. We also had time to pray together the Season of Creation Prayers.

(report submitted by Sr. Winnie)

